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imports, and a description of the country that will be of use to travelers. All of these subjects are treated fully.

In connection with the effect of the climate on the economic development of Guiana, the author says: "It may be safely stated that tropical countries can only be developed by tropical races. The European may direct, but he cannot labor in the field. On the amount of imported labor has always depended the prosperity of Guiana. The most important of the three colonies is that belonging to Great Britain, and it is so because the labor supply is greater than in the other colonies. But the tropical negro is not prolific."

It is to India that Guiana must look for labor, for India is the only place within the tropics where the people are prolific, and to Guiana the people of India are commencing to migrate. The census returns of 1911 show 126,517 East Indians settled in British Guiana, and the future prosperity of the colony is largely dependent upon them.

Page 290: "For the explorer there is a tract of country to the east of the River Corentyne, in Surinam, where possibly unknown tribes of Indians may be found; there are also the Tumac-Humac Mountains on the borders of Brazil to be studied."

WILBUR GREELEY BURROUGHS.

AFRICA

Egypt: Ancient Sites and Modern Scenes. By Sir Gaston Maspero. Translated by E. Lee. 330 pp. Ills., index. T. Fisher Unwin, London, 1910. 12s. 6d. 9 x 6.

It is indeed rare that a composite volume such as this, rescued from the oblivion of newspaper articles and the pages of various reviews, is so universally timely and thoroughly good. Although the reader, in the words of the introduction, may not obtain a very deep knowledge of the large subject of Egypt, ancient and modern, from its perusal, he will have very clear and trustworthy notions at least concerning some of its attractive and salient features.

To the average globe tourist, who has not dared to traverse the depths of even Wallis-Budge, supplied him by an enterprising firm controlling most of the excursion routes of the country, Egypt is a country leaving memories of villages steeped in mud, with here and there a budding factory. It is a land of the sun, perhaps conducive to somnolent meditation, where the old poverty is as acute as ever, for in apparently prosperous spots the demands for bakhshish are universal.

On the trip up the river, going aground the first time may be amusing, but if often repeated the Arab vocabulary does not contain bad language enough to meet the occasion. And it is to be feared that a "trip to Egypt" might often be better described as a donkey ride spoiled by the monuments, in a country where deporting the royal mummies seems to be the principal business, and where a tip of a whole piastre apiece marks an era in the career of the hungry denizen of the desert, whose stick falls rhythmically on the back of his unoffending donkey and marks time for his steps.

The inhabitant of the country spends his time dreaming of rich finds of treasure, for if he makes a good sale of curios he spends with a lavish hand in riotous living, and, when the inevitable crisis comes, he allows the government to get him out of the mess, his only comment being, with a shrug of his shoulders: "If the government fails, God will provide."

There is not a country in the world where the inhabitants are so filled with illusions, and this is only natural, for they have been fed on traditions. A superstitious story is the stock in trade of many a camp-fire tale, repeated with surroundings which give the finishing touch to the high sounding moral with which it ends. These stories are based on the acts of ancient supernatural beings, many of whom have been brought down to date, for we find that the gods are neither dead nor in exile, but have simply become the demons of modern times.

From the most ancient days they have been a nation of story-tellers, and the "Arab tale" on p. 194 is a good example of this characteristic of a race which has been brought up on the Arabian Nights.

The book might well be called "A workman and his workshop," for it well describes the author and his ceaseless activity in his chosen field of work, a country of dreams, where even the towns appear more like the silhouettes of the twilight than the tragic realities they are, and where the people seem to think that the venerable temples, which they do not comprehend, are so many quarries instituted by Providence for their benefit.

Maspero has been fortunate in his translator, for she has caught the spirit of his enthusiasm in a remarkable degree. Some of the chapters are notable as literary achievements, and the word-painting of such sections as that on "Denderah" and the descriptions of a "Fog on the Nile" are worthy of more than a passing note. The book is not intended as an exhaustive treatise on Egypt, but it has a distinct value and reason for its existence, in that it gives, with high literary value, an account of the experiences of a master mind.

WILLIAM LIBBEY.

Black Ivory and White, or the Story of El Zubeir Pasha, Slaver and Sultan, as Told by Himself. Translated and put on record by H. C. Jackson. 118 pp. B. H. Blackwell, Oxford, 1913. 7½ x 5.

Anyone who was familiar with the big events in the Egyptian Sudan before the rise of the Mahdi, and after he had closed the Sudan to the world, will remember Zubeir Pasha. Of humble origin, he became in time the greatest and most powerful of the Arab slavers and rulers. He conquered and long held, in what is now the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, a territory as large as France. Later, he was long detained at Gibraltar, where the British Government thought it wise to keep him till it had settled affairs in the Sudan.

This is his own story of his rise to affluence and power as told to the author of the book. It is very interesting as throwing light upon life and doings in the Sudan when Arab slavers did there practically what they pleased. What Zubeir says of his motives and of some of his dealings with native chiefs and with the blacks is probably open to suspicion; but he tells a good story and is the only chronicler of much that he tells.

North Africa and the Desert: Scenes and Moods. By G. E. Woodberry. 364 pp. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1914. $2. 8½ x 6.

This book is an interpretation of the Sahara by a writer of imagination, poetic feeling, sympathy and a rare gift of literary expression. Those who have seen or studied the desert know that this book is not only literature but is also truth. We are edified by the writings of many men of science who have told us of the Sahara; but a far larger public have here an opportunity to be edified and enlightened by word pictures of many phases of the northern part of the Sahara and its inhabitants that are true in color, atmosphere and expression. Dr. Woodberry was formerly professor of comparative literature in Columbia University. Here is a bit from p. 171:

"It was beyond Ourlana that I noticed to the southwest, a mile or two away, three or four detached palms by a lake; their tall stems leaned through the transparent air above a low bank over a liquid, mirror-like belt of quiet water, a perfect oriental scene. It was my first mirage; and two or three times more I saw it that afternoon—the perfect symbol of all the illusion of life. How beautiful it was, how was its beauty enhanced, framed there in the waste world, how after a while it melted away!"

La Rénovation du Maroc. Par Rodolphe van Loo. 217 pp. J. Lebègue & Cie, Brussels, 1912. Fr. 4. 10 x 7.

Throughout the several essays which form this volume runs a central idea which appears in the title. It is the renovation, the regeneration of the Barbary States. In every chapter is the belief that these communities of the southern Mediterranean shore may become great because they have once been great. The author is richly appreciative of the work that France has been doing in Algeria, he foresees the improvement of Morocco under the same system of colonial possession and commercial betterment. The details of the colonial system are carefully reported with reference to the several topics as to which information might properly be expected. The result of his investigations